

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01672 041016Z

16

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /036 W

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O R 040735Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8636

AMCONSUL ZURICH IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1672

ZURICH FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC, US

SUBJECT: CALL ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MOGWE

REF: A) GABORONE 1656 (NOTAL) B) MAPUTO 994 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: CHARGE MADE SEPT 1 COURTESY CALL ON A.M. MOGWE, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. ALTHOUGH CONVERSATION IN GREAT PART NON-SUBSTANTIVE, MINISTER DID MAKE OBSERVATIONS ON US-GOB RELATIONS, SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AND THE SOVIET UNION. HE ALSO SHOWED HURT FEELINGS OVER ALLEGEDLY BEING "BY-PASSED" BY WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

2. US-GOB RELATIONS: ALTHOUGH WE HAVE MANY MORE AREAS OF AGREEMENT THAN DISAGREEMENT", MOGWE WONDERED ALOUD WHY UNDERSECRETARY ROGERS AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELE "PASSED US BY" ON THEIR RECENT TRIP. THIS IS CONTINUING PATTERN, ACCORDING TO MOGWE, WHICH IS SOMEWHAT RESENTED. HE ALSO ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY THE SECRETARY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO COME TO BOTSWANA IN APRIL AND INSTEAD HAD ASKED PRESIDENT KHAMA TO TRAVEL TO NAIROBI.

3. SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA: POSSIBLY REFLECTING VISIT OF UN COUNCIL  
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PAGE 02 GABORO 01672 041016Z

FOR NAMIBIA, MOGWE SAID THAT SAG IS LEADING SOUTHERN AFRICA "TOWARD

ANOTHER ANGOLA" IN NAMIBIA. ALSO ACCUSED SAG OF "DELIBERATELY CREAT-  
ING PROBLEMS" IN NAMIBIA.

4. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: IN TRYING TO PUSH PAVING OF BOTZAM ROAD,  
MOGWE STATED THAT "WE NEED MORE THAN SYMPATHY". SAID THAT GOB HAD  
TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO INTEREST ARABS IN FINANCING AN INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT IN GABORONE. HE ALSO DWELT ON PROBLEMS WITH RHODESIAN RAIL-  
ROAD INCLUDING OCCASIONAL SHORTAGE OF WAGONS TO CARRY MORUPULE COAL  
TO SELEBI-PIKWE AND GABORONE POWER STATION.

MOGWE SAID GOB REALIZES ENORMITY OF COST TO ANY ONE DONOR IN  
HELPING BOTSWANA TO TAKE OVER RAILROAD. THEREFORE, GOB MUST  
"SECTIONALIZE" REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, I.E., ONE DONOR TO  
FINANCE TRAINING, UNOTHER TO PROVIDE REPAIR FACILITIES, ETC.

ALSO INDICATED NATIONAL SURVIVAL MIGHT FORCE GOB TO ACCEPT "UNPALA-  
TABLS" SHORT-TERM EXPEDIENT OF ACCEPTING SOUTH AFRICAN OFFER  
TO RUN THE RAILROAD, SHOULD IT BE CLOSED IN THE NORTH, AND  
SHOULD SUCH AN OFFER BE MADE.

5. SOVIETS: MINISTER MOGWE TOLD CHARGE' HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY  
SOVIETS HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED AN EMBASSY IN GABORONE. THEY WERE HERE  
TO DISCUSS AN EMBASSY LAST YEAR BUT HAVE NOT BEEN HEARD FROM IN  
SOME TIME. LATER IN CONVERSATION, MOGWE DESCRIBED CUBANS AS HAVING  
"OVERRUN" ANGOLA.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN PRESIDENT KHAMA'S (DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL A) AND MIN-  
ISTER MOGWE'S SENSITIVITIES ABOUT BEING "PASSED OVER" ON USG  
VIP VISITS TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER  
MIGHT CONSIDER VISIT TO GABORONE SHOULD HE DECIDE ON TRIP TO  
AFRICA FOLLOWING VORSTER TALKS.

IF BOTSWANA VISIT IS DEEMED INADVISABLE BECAUSE OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIFFICULTIES OR OTHER CONSIDERATION (FOR EXAMPLE, FRONTLINE PRE-  
SIDENTS MEETING DESCRIBED IN REF B), AN ALTERNATIVE (ALBEIT PERHAPS  
LESS DESIRABLE FROM PRESIDENT KHAMA'S VIEWPOINT) MIGHT BE FOR THE  
SECRETARY TO INVITE HIM TO PARTICIPATE IF SECRETARY HOLDS TALKS  
ELSEWHERE IN BLACK AFRICA. THERE IS OF COURSE NO GUARANTEE THAT  
KHAMA COULD OR WOULD ACCEPT SUCH AN INVITATION; BUT WE BELIEVE EVEN  
THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS CLEARLY PREFERABLE TO USG'S MAKING NO  
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PAGE 03 GABORO 01672 041016Z

GESTURE TOWARD INCLUDING KHAMA IN CONSULTATIONS WITH BLACK  
AFRICAN LEADERS. END COMMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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